

LITERARY NOTES.

New Publications.

American novelists have plenty of encouragement to write, and are assuredly no longer the oppressed beings which they used to be considered. So far the cheap "Libraries" have served them in making the publishers eager for fiction which may be copyrighted and sold for more than ten or twenty cents. A new collection of stories to be called the "American Novel Series" has been projected by Henry Holt & Co. The first of the series, "A Latter-Day Saint," will be brought out almost immediately.

The novel of "The Bread-Winners" will be completed in the January number of *The Century*, and will then be published in complete form by the Harpers. Meanwhile the publishers of the magazine have brought out, for the benefit of those who have missed by chance some of the chapters, a pamphlet containing the first three parts of the story. *The Art Interchange* has also just republished in pamphlet form the letters sent to it in response to these questions previously published in its columns:

"...From internal evidence is the author a man or a woman?"
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Mile Ouida appears to dislike the literary ideas of Mr. Henry James. "No doubt," she says, "all the world over character creates circumstance, and the tortoise is not to blame if it cannot leap, only it need not disbelieve in the greyhound and the horse. No doubt 'adventures are to the adventurous' in the most extended sense of the word; and romantic and brilliant lives will not fail to the lot of the dull and the mediocre. But such lives exist, nevertheless, and it is not true that a pale uniformity extends like a pall over the whole of the human race. A friend of mine never gives a reception without having 1,500 frames' worth of wax candles lighted in his room; is he not 'real' as Jones or Brown whose housemaid lights his single gaslight? A little while ago I said to a well-known diplomatist, who is also a great virtuoso and a great artist, and who has also a most romantic personal history: 'If you were put in a book,' as people say, nobody would believe in you.' Let me beg to be distinctly understood: I do not object to realism in fiction; what I object to is the limitation of realism in fiction to what is commonplace, tedious and bald—the habit, in a word, of insisting that the potato is real and that the passion-flower not. A novel is not necessarily any the more like real life because it is a story about nothing, real to nowhere, which might meander on through half a century for any climax that it ever reaches." It may, perhaps, be said that all this is not without reason, even though it comes from Ouida—especially the reference to the potato. Mr. James's new story, "Impressions of a Cousin," is marvelously in its introduction of vulgar and stupid people whose acquaintance in real life one would be glad to shirk, and about whose conversation and action hovers an inexplicable dulness. This indeed is realism run mad.

Mr. James Payn has written out his personal recollections of Mary Russell Mitford for *The Cornhill Magazine*.

The wife of Barry Cornwall has told Mr. Gosse that the last time her husband saw the eccentric poet, Thomas Lovell Beddoes, the latter was in the hands of the police for having attempted, in a fit of fantastic bravado, to set Drury Lane Theatre on fire with a five-pound note. Mr. Procter easily persuaded his captors that this was not the kind of torch that a serious incendiary would make use of. After this Beddoes complained of neuralgia, and shut himself up in his bedroom for six months, reading and smoking.

A mysterious announcement has just been made in England of "a great social and political novel," by a new writer "of great political and social importance." It is entitled "My Name is Smith."

Mr. Edmund Yates's book of reminiscences, "Fifty Years of London Life," will soon be brought out.

A calendar for 1884, which is not only attractive but exceedingly useful, has been prepared by Miss Delta W. Lyman, of New-Haven, with the assistance of Professor Henry P. Johnston. It is entitled "The Calendar of American History," and gives under each date and in an admirably clear and compact form the chief event in our history occurring on that day. At the back of the card is an excellent index; and the block is enclosed in a neat box in which the sheets as fast as they are torn off may be placed for reference. The calendar is especially adapted to the uses of students, and of all persons in fact, who like to refresh their memory of our historical records. The printing and coloring are good and the date-lines are of excellent size. G. P. Putnam's Sons are the publishers.

Let those who think Turgenev did not believe in the Revolutionists read, says a nihilist paper, the following poem in prose, "The Threshold," which is well known to many persons in Russia: "Before me is an immense edifice. In the centre of its facade a narrow door stands wide open; beyond it a dense obscurity. Before the threshold stands a maiden—a Russian maiden. From without that impenetrable darkness an icy, freezing current bears the tones of a low, sepulchral voice, 'Knowest thou, maiden, who would step athwart this threshold, what awaits thee?' I know,' answers the maiden. 'That cold, hunger, hatred, mockery, contempt, imprisonments, sickness, and even death may claim thee!' 'I know,' repeats the maiden. 'That complete separation and isolation must be thy lot?' 'I know it; I am ready to suffer all griefs and sorrows, all blows of fate.' 'Not only from enemies,' continues the voice, 'but even from parents and friends!' 'Yes, even from them!' 'Is good, are you prepared, then, to make the sacrifice?' 'Yes.' 'But an unutterable sacrifice! Thou wilt be lost forever, and none will know thy name to honor it.' 'I need neither gratitude nor pity; I want no name,' replies the maiden. 'But are you prepared to commit a crime?' The maiden bowed her head. 'Yes, she said, 'I am prepared for even that!' Here the voice paused. 'Knewest thou,' it continued, 'that thou may repeat, and that thy young life may be sacrificed for nought?' 'I know it all, and more, and yet would enter.' 'Then enter!' The maiden crossed the threshold into the darkness; and as the heavy curtain fell behind her, a still deeper voice from behind was heard to mutter, 'Fool! But in another voice, as though from above, came clear and soft the words, 'Thou saint!'

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By Paul Janet, member of the French Academy. Author of "Final Causes," & 1 vol. Svo. \$2.50.

Professor Janet in this book gives us not only a clear and concise examination of the whole study of moral science, but has introduced into the discussion many elements which have hitherto been too much neglected; he elucidates many of the difficulties which beset the student, and suggests important new subjects for investigation. The translation has been made under the supervision of President Noah Porter, who introduces it as a text-book in his classes at Yale College.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

By Philip Schaff, D. D., Professor in Union Theological Seminary, editor of Lance's Commentary, &c.

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